



The United States Seventh Fleet

Who we are:

- Seventh Fleet is the largest of the U.S. Navy's forward-deployed fleets.
- At any given time there are 80 ships and submarines, 140 aircraft, and approximately 40,000 Sailors and Marines in Seventh Fleet.
- Commanded by a 3-star Navy Flag officer, [Vice Adm. Robert Thomas](#), since July 2013

Where we operate:

- Seventh Fleet's Area of Responsibility (AOR) spans more than 124 million square kilometers, stretching from the International Date Line to the India/Pakistan border; and from the Kuril Islands in the North to the Antarctic in the South.
- Seventh Fleet's AOR encompasses 36 maritime countries and 50% of the world's population, including:
 - The five largest foreign militaries: China, Russia, India, North Korea, and the Republic of Korea
 - Five U.S. Mutual Defense Treaty allies: the Philippines, Australia, the Republic of Korea, Japan, and Thailand

What we do:

- For more than 70 years Seventh Fleet has maintained a continuous forward presence in the Indo-Asia Pacific, providing security and stability to the region.
- Seventh Fleet units take part in more than 125 bilateral & multilateral exercises each year, comprising over 1,800 total days per year of regional engagement. Building partnerships and familiarity helps avoid misunderstandings and prevents unnecessary military escalation.

Aircraft Carrier Operations – long range strike capability:

USS George Washington (CVN 73) is currently the Navy's forward deployed aircraft carrier in Seventh Fleet. Whereas other carriers are homeported in the U.S. and deploy periodically, USS George Washington is permanently forward-deployed to Yokosuka, Japan and spends about half of each year at sea.

USS George Washington, when combined with guided missile destroyers and cruisers, creates a carrier strike group of up to 12 ships and 75 aircraft. These forces have a higher operational tempo than other Navy vessels, and being forward deployed cuts an average of 17 days transit time to the region compared to forces based in the continental U.S. The Navy may assign another aircraft carrier to Seventh Fleet for temporary operations, adding 70 more aircraft and numerous ships to our long range strike capability.

Surface Combatant Operations:

Seventh Fleet controls 10-14 destroyers and cruisers at any given time, with 11 based in Yokosuka and 2-5 periodically assigned to the region from Hawaii or San Diego. These surface ships carry Theater Ballistic Missile interceptors, long-range Tomahawk land attack missiles and anti-aircraft missiles.

Anti-Submarine Warfare:

Should tensions escalate into armed conflict, our advanced submarines would provide our greatest advantage against an enemy. At any given time there are 6-10 submarines in Seventh Fleet. All U.S. subs are nuclear powered.



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Aerial Reconnaissance:

Seventh Fleet has 16-20 reconnaissance aircraft, the newest being a militarized version of the Boeing 737 called the P-8, which arrived in Dec 2013. These aircraft provide intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance of the entire region. They also carry sonobuoys and torpedoes for anti-submarine warfare.

Amphibious and Mine Countermeasure ships:

Seventh Fleet has four amphibious ships, the largest of which is the helicopter carrier USS Bonhomme Richard. Nearly the size of the USS George Washington, Bonhomme Richard is capable of carrying dozens of helicopters or MV-22 Ospreys and approximately 1,000 Marines. Amphibious ships are specifically designed to operate relatively close to shore in support of amphibious operations, but their design also makes them well suited to supporting humanitarian relief efforts.

In addition to the amphibious ships, Seventh Fleet also controls four mine countermeasure ships designed to locate and neutralize mines. Both these and the amphibious ships are based in Sasebo, Japan.

Special Warfare:

Forward deployed SEAL teams and special boat units are based in Guam. They often provide support to Presidential visits.

Logistics ships:

Seventh Fleet is self-sufficient, with about 50 combat logistics ships commanded from Singapore. They are government-owned or contracted ships with partial civilian crews and Navy presence. These ships supply Seventh Fleet units throughout the region for continuous, sustained operations at sea.

Rebalance to the Pacific:

- By 2020, US military forces will see a 60/40 pivot toward the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.
- Seventh Fleet typically gets the newest technology and equipment first, such as the Freedom Class Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) ships, MV-22 Ospreys, helicopter upgrades, the new P-8 aircraft, and the most up-to-date ships of each class, including the DDG 1000 Zumwalt class destroyers when commissioned.
- Seventh Fleet is enhancing its cooperation with the JMSDF in information sharing, to include intelligence, technology, equipment exchanges, and operational coordination.